

**P-20 Council Meeting
December 9th, 2015
12pm – 4pm
Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy
2520 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60608
Conference Line: 888-494-4032
Access Code: 4218176480#**

Minutes

Chicago: Roger Eddy, Janet Holt, Erika Hunt, Kurt Hilgendorf, Karen Hunter-Anderson, Madelyn James, Sylvia Jenkins, Dea Meyer, Melissa Mitchell, Laurel Prussing, Beth Purvis, John Rico, Jane Russell, Sharon Thomas Parrott, Gary Tipsord, Eric Zarnikow

Phone: Jim Applegate, Kathy Stohr (for Kelley Washington)

- I. Juan Salgado, president and CEO of Instituto Del Progreso Latino and the 2016 MacArthur Fellow, welcomed members of the P-20 council and gave an introduction of Instituto. He explained that though they had a school for their traditional students, they also have a school for their adult learners as well.
- II. Council Chair Beth Purvis introduced STEM as the topic for the meeting while also giving a brief overview of education in the state.
- III. The first group of panelist began the conversation about talking about narrowing the STEM Divide between low and high income students. The panel was moderated by Tom Cross, former Illinois legislator and Distinguished Fellow at Aurora University.
 - a. The first panel presenter was Arin Carter, director of the Dunham STEM Partnership School. Carter talked about new models of curriculum development and implementation. Through the John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School, students are taught lessons that are vetted by their partner organizations such as Caterpillar, Exelon Corporation, FermiLab, and many others. The lessons are part of a replicable model that can be tailored to meet the needs of local communities and job markets. The STEM program also receives grants and support from Aurora University that allows the cost per student to be lowered and allows students access to university labs, facilities, and special programs.
 - b. The next panel presenter was Dr. Jeffrey Margolis, the Vice President of External Engagement of the Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA). Margolis explained that since its creation in 1985, IMSA was to be leading the state in STEM workforce development. He explained that one goal of IMSA was to have students think of STEM as a methodology and thought process and not an end. Another goal of IMSA is to reach out to the local communities and students, especially students from low-income backgrounds not only through their residential academy but also through working with 3rd

– 8th grade educators from other schools. Dr. Margolis focused on the different ways that IMSA is leading the state in STEM education, on and off of IMSA's campus.

- c. The third panel presenter was Dr. Hillyn Sennholtz, Principal of the Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy. 96% of the Instituto's students are Hispanic and they have a requirement of 32 credits for graduation. Part of their curriculum includes Project Lead the Way Biomedical Science program where students explore concepts of biology and medicine to determine factors that led to the death of a fictional character. This introduces students to the biomedical sciences and allows them to design their own experiments in order to solve problems. Sennholtz also explained how Instituto has connections with Malcolm X College and other city colleges that allow Instituto students to take classes there. Instituto also helps undocumented students as well provide advising for students even in college.

After the panelist each presented, there was a Q&A session for the council to ask the panelist any questions.

- IV. After the lunch break, the second panel on Building the STEM and STEM Education Workforce in Illinois. The panel was moderated by Dr. Janet Holt, the P-20 council coordinator and the panelist included Dr. Sharon Locke, director of the Center for STEM Research, Education, and Outreach at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; Dr. William Hunter, director of the Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology, at Illinois State University; and Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board. Dr. Luis-Maria Rosu, interim director at the I-STEM Initiative at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, could not attend due to sickness.

- a. Dr. Sharon Locke began with a presentation on STEM workforce development. She explained that people only look for jobs that they know exist and therefore they don't know what kind of education they need to pursue. There are currently Teen Science Cafes that focus on high schoolers nationally. This program is ran by teen leaders and develop leadership skills and allows students to meet scientists.

Locke also mentioned the Summer Undergraduate Internship Program, which was funded by the National Science Foundation. In 2015, they opened up the program to students in Chicago allowing them to get work experience and a stipend for 200 hours. Locke went on to talk about other STEM related initiatives that have been happening to other states and are planning to be brought to Chicago.

- b. Dr. William Hunter began with three goals that STEM needs to focus on: Support for teachers and students; Fostering interest in STEM for students; and Diversity by bringing STEM to students from low-income areas.
- c. Dr. Karen Hunter-Anderson tied in STEM with the work that the community colleges are doing including initiatives to bring in more STEM students to the community colleges.

- V. After the panels, Council Chair Purvis led the group in a discussion on developing the P-20 STEM agenda. Some council members wondered why such an emphasis was put on STEM as well as whether or not the P-20 council should have STEM specific focus. It was agreed upon that the P-20 council shouldn't be solely focused on STEM but that it's important to look at education from that perspective from time-to-time throughout the communities.
- VI. Committees shared their updates (which were also found in the meeting materials packet).
- VII. Adjourn